

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE

SUBJECT: ECE: WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING - STAFF QUESTIONS

REF: GENEVA 659 (NOTAL)

1. DURING STANOVNIK'S VISIT HERE JANUARY 18, HE TOLD US HE HAD BEEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM UN PERSONNEL DIRECTOR GHERAB TO ACCEPT FIRST AN AFRICAN AND SUBSEQUENTLY AN ASIAN AS FAGEN REPLACEMENT. WE UNDERSTOOD HIM TO SAY THAT HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY MOBILIZED ECE WESTERN CAUCUS TO RESIST THIS PRESSURE, IN BELIEF THAT THIRD-HIGHEST POSITION IN SECRETARIAT HAD TO BE FILLED BY MEMBER NATIONAL. OUR APPROACH TO QUESTION OF GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF ECE SECRETARIAT POSTS IS STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY OUR INSISTENCE ON MAINTAINING FAGEN POSITION FOR AMERICAN NATIONAL.

2. WE NOTE THAT CURRENT ECE STAFF IS OVERWHELMINGLY FROM REGION AND THEREFORE EXCEEDS ESTABLISHED UN GOAL FOR REGIONAL COMMISSIONS OF 75 PERCENT REGIONAL NATIONALS, 25 PERCENT EXTRA-REGIONAL. (WHILE THERE IS NO MENTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF "REGION" IN ECE TERMS OF REFERENCE, WE CONSIDER THAT

ECE REGION CONSISTS OF TERRITORIES OF ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES
AND THAT U.S. IS A REGIONAL MEMBER OF ECE.) U.S. REP
SHOULD NOT SEEK DEFEND CURRENT SITUATION AND SHOULD ASSUME

THAT NEW YORK PRESSURE FOR INTAKE OF NON-REGIONAL STAFF
WILL EVENTUALLY SUCCEED TO SOME EXTENT. U.S. REP
SHOULD SEEK WESTERN CAUCUS AGREEMENT THAT FOUR TOP
POSITIONS, I.E. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY, SENIOR ADVISER TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, AND
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CONSTITUTE
EXECUTIVE SUITE OF ECE AND SHOULD BE TACITLY RESERVED
FOR MEMBER-STATE NATIONALS WHO PRESUMED TO HAVE BETTER
UNDERSTANDING OF REGION'S PROBLEMS AND POLITICS THAN
OUTSIDERS. WHILE OTHERS IN CAUCUS MIGHT PREFER ALSO
RESERVE DIVISION CHIEF POSITIONS FOR REGIONAL NATIONALS,
SUCH WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WITH PRACTICE IN OTHER
REGIONAL COMMISSIONS (SOME SUCH POSITIONS ARE HELD BY
U.S. NON-REGIONAL NATIONALS) AND SHOULD NOT BE DEFENDED
BY U.S. REP. KISSINGER

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